

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/090,166

Examiner

Sow-Fun Hon

Applicant(s)

SAKATA ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the supplemental amendment filed 03/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19, 25 renumbered 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-19, 25, as presented in the supplemental amendment dated 03/15/05 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of record, the English translations of JP 2000-267086 and JP 2000-275407, fail to teach the combination of a resin sheet for use in a liquid crystal display, close to a liquid crystal layer; which comprises a hard coat layer, a base layer and a(n) reflecting layer/inorganic gas barrier layer, in that order; or a hard coat layer, a color filter layer, a gas barrier layer, and a base layer, in that order; the base layer comprises an epoxy resin layer comprising 100 parts by weight of an epoxy resin and up to 200 parts by weight of a diffuser having a refractive index different from that of the epoxy resin and having an average particle diameter of from 0.2 to 100 micron, wherein the diffuser localizes so as to have a concentration distribution in the direction of the thickness of the epoxy resin layer, and wherein the localization distributes the diffuser only in a region close to the liquid crystal layer, whereby a light-diffusing function is imparted to improve visibility.

The combination of the specific order of the resin sheet layers with respect to each other in terms of the location of the epoxy layer, and the structure of the epoxy layer in which the diffuser localizes so as to have a concentration distribution in the direction of the thickness of the epoxy resin layer, wherein the localization distributes the diffuser only in a region close to the liquid crystal layer is different and unobvious over JP 2000-267086 and JP 2000-275407. See Applicant's remarks dated 10/29/04. There is no motivation to combine the two references.

Art Unit: 1772

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sow-Fun Hon whose telephone number is (571)272-1492. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at (571)272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

S. Hon.

Sow-Fun Hon

03/16/05

[Signature]
HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

3/17/05